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August 20, 2014

Heidi Firstencel, Project Manager
Eric M. Williams, Archaeologist
RPEDS, South/CEMVN-PDN-NC
Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898 (CEPOA-RD)
JBER, AK 99516-0898

Re: Native Village of Tyonek and the Ch'u'itna Coal Project,
Draft Mitigation Plans

Project Manager Firstencel:

On behalf of the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT), I would like to express my appreciation for your exemplary team leadership during the August 19, 2014 Cooperating-Agency meeting on PacRim's Draft Compensatory Mitigation, Reclamation Plan Summary, and Draft Fish Protection Plan. PacRim's presentation and the ensuing discussion between the Co-operating Agencies that took place after PacRim left the room was extremely helpful and informative in understanding the various concepts and challenges posed by a proposed undertaking of this scope.


As mentioned yesterday, NVT has retained the professional services of qualified experts to review the draft materials and offer comment. In light of the current September 10th deadline for comment to the drafts, NVT has two specific requests to make in the spirit of tribal government-to-government consultation and the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Co-operating Agencies.

Due to the scientific complexity of the material, a thorough understanding of the content is necessary in order to offer meaningful comment to the Corp. on the proposed undertaking. It would thus be extremely helpful to NVT to schedule a meeting with you at your earliest convenience, and include other interested Co-operating Agencies to the extent they wish to be included, and the experts NTV has retained, so that further discussion can be had regarding the more technical aspects of the draft plans. I have confirmed that NVT's consultants are available any time during the next two weeks with the exception of August 29, September 1 and September 5th. Please let us know if you have an opening to so schedule or your next earliest possible date.

Second, given the current 30 day deadline of September 10th for comments, I would like to request consideration of at least a 45 to 60 day extension for purposes of submitting comments. The additional time would allow each of the Co-operating Agencies an opportunity to more fully review and digest the content of the various draft plans.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Kendall Miller
Native American Rights Fund

cc:

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Donita Slawson, NVT
Phil Brna, FWS
Ellen Lance, FWS
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